



Department of Energy
Germantown, MD 20874-1290

NOV 01 1999

The Honorable Phillip Muller
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Republic of the Marshall Islands
Majuro, Marshall Islands 96960

Dear Minister Muller:

This letter follows up on our discussion at our Department of Energy (DOE) and Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) meeting on October 18-19, 1999, concerning the use of Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) procedures to increase the efficiency of our response to RMI and other requests from the public for information related to our work. We appreciate your agreement at this meeting to utilize the FOIA for future information requests.

We agree with the importance your government and the atoll governments place on conducting independent reviews of Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory's (LLNL) environmental monitoring data. To that end, we will continue to respond promptly to the requests for information regarding our programs.

The FOIA permits a requester to obtain U.S. Federal Agency records unless the records (or parts thereof) are protected from disclosure by one of the law's nine exemptions. The FOIA does not require agencies of the U.S. Government to do research, to analyze data, to answer written questions, or to create records in order to respond to a request. Regulations that set forth procedures for requesting DOE records under the FOIA are available on DOE's homepage at <http://www.doe.gov/>.

Please be assured that my staff will work closely with the FOIA Officer to respond to your information requests. I believe use of the FOIA to process the RMI Government's and others' requests for data and information will be of mutual benefit. We will forward any of your requests made to my office for DOE records to the following address. If you prefer, you can make your request directly to this address as well:

Freedom of Information Act Officer
U.S. Department of Energy
1301 Clay Street
Oakland, California 94612-5208



I look forward to the continuation of our thus far successful efforts to ensure that important data are promptly and efficiently shared with the RMI.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Seligman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Paul J. Seligman, M.D., M.P.H.
Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Health Studies

cc: See attached list.

cc: Ambassador Banny de Brum,
RMI Embassy, Washington, D.C.
Ambassador Joan Plaisted,
U.S. Embassy, Majuro
Senator Henchi Balos, Bikini
Senator Ismael John, Enewetak
Senator Johnsay Riklon, Rongelap
Senator Hiroshi Yamamura, Utrik
Mayor Tomaki Juda, Bikini
Mayor Neptali Peter, Enewetak
Mayor James Matayoshi, Rongelap
Mayor Joe Saul, Utrik
Jonathan Weisgall, Esq.
Davor Pevec, Esq.
Howard Hills, Esq.
John Masek, Esq.
The Honorable Don Young,
House Resources Committee
The Honorable George Miller,
House Resources Committee
The Honorable Eni Faleomavaega
House Resources Committee
The Honorable Robert Underwood,
House Resources Committee
The Honorable Frank Murkowski,
Senate Energy Committee
The Honorable Daniel Akaka,
Senate Energy Committee,
The Honorable Daniel Inouye,
Senate Appropriations Committee
Allen Stayman, DOS
Thomas Steele, DOS
Ferdinand Aranza, DOI
William Robison, LLNL
Terry Hamilton, LLNL
Dave Layton, LLNL
Lance Yamaguchi, BN
Dave Watson, BN
Henry Preston, PHRI
David Curb, PHRI
Neal Palafox, PHRI
Roseann Pelzner, OAK